



Ordinary Meeting of Council

held at

Council Chamber

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 26 February 2024

at 7:00 PM

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The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7:00 pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

The Mayor went on to inform all those in attendance at this meeting, that the meeting is being webcast and that those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements concerning any person, Councillor or employee, and refrain from discussing those matters subject to Closed Council proceedings as indicated in clause 14.1 of the code of meeting practice.

2. Present

Public: 13

Her Worship the Mayor Councillor M Statham

Councillor D Goodwin

Councillor A Bryce

Councillor C Coleman

Councillor S Lesslie

Councillor S McGhie

Councillor E Mahony

Councillor C O' Connor

Councillor S Ring

Also in attendance

Craig Butler General Manager

Ross Gurney Chief Financial and Information Officer - Finance, Assets and Legal

Jonathon Edgecombe Director Infrastructure and Economy

Matthew Trapp Executive Manager Water, Wastewater and Waste

Shaun Elwood Director People & Places

Trinity Newton Minutes Secretary

3. Apologies

All being present, there were no apologies.

4. Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

Councillor S Ring declared a non-significant pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 as he is the Heritage Advisor to the Portland Foundations and undertook to vacate the Chambers when the item is discussed.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

24 -22 RESOLVED

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 30 January 2024 were taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

Councillor C Coleman spoke against minutes stating that in her opinion the last 20 minutes of the meeting went against the Code and should not have happened.

Councillor S Lesslie asked about a letter that the Mayor stated he was to receive at the last meeting.

Councillor S Ring asked for urgent business to be struck from the order of business. As this matter was not related to the minutes of 30 January 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council, the matter was not dealt with at this point in the meeting. Councillor Ring was requested to raise this in Business of Great Urgency.

Councillor E Mahony spoke against the minutes because he considered that some of the matters should not have been raised in open Council.

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Statham

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor S McGhie and Councillor C O'Connor

AGAINST: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor S Ring

6. Commemorations and Announcements

On behalf of Lithgow City Council the Mayor expressed sincere sympathy and condolences to families who had lost loved ones since the last council meeting.

Councillor D Goodwin commemorated the passing of Mr Paul Carter a lifelong local, who served the community for 53 years in Fire & Rescue NSW.

The Mayor Commemorated the passing of Mr Darryl Cooper who recently passed away. Mr Cooper was a regular attendee at the Lithgow Aquatic Centre and had a medical episode whilst swimming last week.

The Mayor later took the opportunity to recognise the care and compassion given to Mr Cooper by Council's staff at the pool.

The Mayor commemorated the passing of Mr Ian Litchfield OAM, who dedicated 60 years as a volunteer with the Rydal show and was a pillar of this community.

The Mayor congratulated the Lithgow Chamber of Commerce for the Invest Forum that was held last week.

7. Public Forum

At 7:09 pm members of the public gallery were invited to participate in the Public Forum Session.

Mr Tom Evangelidis made a statement in relation to Item 9.4 and Item 9.3 on the business paper.

The Mayor thanked Mr Evangelidis for his statement.

Mr Ray Smith made a statement in relation to Ownership of roads and closures of roads around Lake Lyell which are not on the business paper.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT an extension of time be granted to Mr Smith.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

The Mayor thanked Mr Smith for his statement.

Ms Gaye Mason made a statement in relation to Item 9.2 on the business paper.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT an extension of time be granted to Ms Mason.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

The Mayor thanked Ms Mason for her statement.

Ms Gundega Svans made a statement in relation to Item 9.2 on the business paper.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT an extension of time be granted to Svans.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

The Mayor thanked Ms Svans for her statement.

8. Mayoral Minutes

There were no Mayoral Minutes tabled.

9. Notices of Motion

9.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - Councillor S Lesslie - 23/02/2024 - State and Federal Members invited to Lithgow City Council Events

24 -23 RESOLVED

THAT for any Lithgow City Council event, if the State Member is invited, then the Federal Member must also be invited.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Statham

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor C Coleman, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor E Mahony, Councillor C O'Connor and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor A Bryce and Councillor S McGhie

9.2. NOTICE OF MOTION - Councillor E Mahony - 26/02/2024 - Review of Council policies and actions relating to street tree management and verge gardens.

24 -24 RESOLVED

THAT:

- 1. Council undertake a review of policies relating to street tree management and the use of verge gardens across the Lithgow Local Government Area. That this review commence with a report to the Operations Committee.
- 2. Given the heritage values of the mature treescape of London Plane Trees in Short Street Lithgow, that the trees be assessed by no less than a level 5 arborist and that any proposal to remove trees be brought to an Ordinary Meeting of Lithgow City Council for determination unless there is an immediate risk to the community.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

Councillor S M°Ghie called a Point of Order as he had not finished speaking when Councillor S Lesslie started speaking to the Item.

The Mayor upheld the Point of Order and asked Councillor McGhie to continue speaking.

CARRIED

9.3. NOTICE OF MOTION - Councillor E Mahony - 26/02/2024 - Council support to the Ironfest Makers Event 2024.

Due to a earlier declaration of interest Councillor S Ring left vacated the Chamber at 8:04 pm.

24 -25 RESOLVED

THAT staff meet with the new organisers for the Ironfest Makers Event 2024 to explore what Council support would assist in the delivery of the upcoming event.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

Councillor S Ring returned to the meeting at 8:09 pm.

9.4. NOTICE OF MOTION - Councillor S Ring - Rate Review

MOTION

THAT

- 1. The Administration prepare a report for the March Council meeting that:
 - a) identifies the number of properties for which the rate rise has caused undue financial hardship because of rate increases significantly above the 27.7% rate limit and:
 - b) And what actions are being taken to rectify these issues.
- 2. Consistent with Item 5.6 Audit Action Rating Review of the February 2024 Finance Committee, that Council Administration prepares a draft Farmland Categorisation Policy for review by the June 2024 Council meeting and that a Farmland Categorisation process be implemented during the 2024/25 financial year.
- 3. The Council Administration undertake immediately a review of the current rating categories and identify what new sub categories can be introduced to ensure greater equity and fairness in the current system for application in the 2024/25 financial year.
- 4. If additional resources are required to undertake Item 3 additional resources are funded from the appropriate allocation of the SRV rise such as the allocation for Improving the way we manage our business (\$750,000 in total)

MOVED: Councillor S Ring SECONDED: Councillor C O'Connor

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT an extension of time be granted to Councillor S Ring.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

Councillor S Ring called a Point of Order stating that Councillor D Goodwin asked for questions to

be answered that were already answered in the Management comment.

The Mayor overruled the Point of Order and asked the Administration to respond to Councillor D Goodwin's guestion.

AMENDMENT

THAT the Council maintain its current focus on continuous improvement and refinement of the rating system, acknowledging that the Council will soon receive advice from the administration and they will, at that stage, determine any required changes for the year ahead and beyond.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodwin SECONDED: Councillor S McGhie

Councillor S Ring called a Point of Order stating that the Amendment was a direct negative to the Motion.

The Mayor overruled the Point of Order.

Councillor S Ring moved a Motion of Dissent against the Mayor's ruling.

The Mayor PUT the Motion of Dissent.

The Motion of Dissent was LOST.

The Amendment was PUT.

CARRIED

The Amendment became the Motion.

24 -26 RESOLVED

THAT the Council maintain its current focus on continuous improvement and refinement of the rating system, acknowledging that the Council will soon receive advice from the administration, and they will, at that stage, determine any required changes for the year ahead and beyond.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodwin SECONDED: Councillor S McGhie

CARRIED

10. Administration Reports

10.1. Caring for Our Community

There were no Caring for Our Community Reports.

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10.2. Developing Our Built Environment

10.2.1. P&P - 26/02/2024 - DA200/23 - 67 Bridge Street Lithgow - Internal alterations and additions to the Union Theatre

24 -27 RESOLVED

THAT

- 1. Development Application DA200/23 be approved subject to conditions of consent detailed in the attached 4.15 Assessment Report.
- 2. A division be called in accordance with the requirements of Section 375A(3) of the Local Government Act. 1993.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called in accordance with the requirements of Section 375A(3) of the Local Government Act, 1993

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor C Coleman, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor S McGhie, Councillor E Mahony, Councillor C O'Connor and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Nil

10.2.2. I&E - 26/02/2024 - Tender Evaluation - Replacement of the Charles Street Road Bridge, Rydal

MOTION

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the tender evaluation for the demolition of the timber bridge on Charles Street, Rydal and the design and construction of a replacement concrete bridge.
- 2. In accordance with Clause 178 (1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, accept the tender submission from Central Industries for the amount of \$524,595 (plus GST).
- 3. Authorise the General Manager to execute the contract on behalf of Council under delegated authority.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

The Mayor asked if there were any objections from the public with regards to the listed reports being in a session of the meeting that is closed to the public.

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There were Nil objections.

24 -28 RESOLVED

THAT Council resolve to move into Closed Council to consider the confidential attachments to ITEM 10.2.2 at 8.55pm.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

The Mayor informed the Public that the webcasting will be turned off at this point in the meeting and will be reopened at the end of the session of the meeting that is closed to the public.

24 - 29 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Resolve to return to open Council at 8:58 pm.
- 2. Receive the confidential information discussed in closed Council.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED: Unanimously

24 -30 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the tender evaluation for the demolition of the timber bridge on Charles Street, Rydal and the design and construction of a replacement concrete bridge.
- 2. In accordance with Clause 178 (1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, accept the tender submission from Central Industries for the amount of \$524,595 (plus GST).
- 3. Authorise the General Manager to execute the contract on behalf of Council under delegated authority.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

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10.2.3. WWW - 26/02/2024 - Contracts for the Asset Management of Sewer Pipes

24 -31 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Accept a contract with Interflow Pty Limited for the Asset Management of Sewer Pipes including separable portions:
 - I. Condition Assessment of Gravity Sewer and Stormwater Mains using CCTV;
 - II. Smoke Testing of Sewer Service Lines; and
 - III. Pipe Relining.
- 2. Delegate authority to the General Manager to enter a contract between Council and Interflow Pty Ltd in accordance with the Tender for:
 - I. Condition Assessment of Gravity Sewer and Stormwater Mains using CCTV;
 - II. Smoke Testing of Sewer Service Lines; and
 - III. Pipe Relining.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

10.2.4. WWW - 26/02/2024 - Sewer Management and Response to NOM

24 -32 RESOLVED

That Council:

- 1. Allocate \$154,000 from the sewer fund for the installation of up to 200 sewer reflux valves.
- 2. Bring back a report to April 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council on how the funds will be applied.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

LOST

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor S Ring

Divisions

FOR: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor S McGhie, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S Lesslie and Councillor C O'Connor

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10.3. **Strengthening Our Economy**

10.3.1. I&E - 26/02/2024 - LEEP - Suggested Governance Model

Councillor A Bryce left the meeting at 9:39 pm.

Councillor A Bryce returned to the meeting at 9:40 pm.

MOTION

THAT Council:

- 1. Establish a Lithgow Jobs and Investment Committee (the **Committee**) pursuant to s355(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) with the functions set out in Attachment A, to operate until such time that the NSW Government implements its proposed Central West Jobs and Investment Authorities.
- 2. In establishing the Committee, that the Committee be constituted by the General Manager (Ross Gurney to avoid handovers and continuity of work) and seven other persons appointed from each of the Federal and Statement Governments, the knowledge sector, Energy Australia, Centennial Coal, Greenspot, the Foundations and Generator Property Management and an independent Chair.
- 3. Permit the Committee to recommend to Council the appointment of an independent chairperson and that the General Manager be appointed interim chairperson until Council makes a substantive appointment to this role.
- 4. Endorse the following governance actions to establish the Committee
 - a nominee of each of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Interim Net Zero Authority Team) and the Department of Regional NSW be invited to help constitute the Committee.
 - b. representatives from the above organisations, EnergyAustralia, Centennial Coal, Greenspot. The Foundations and Generator Property Management.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring **SECONDED:** Councillor C Coleman

Councillor S McGhie foreshadowed a Motion.

LOST

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Statham

Divisions

FOR: Councillor C Coleman and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor S McGhie, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor C O'Connor

FORESHADOWED MOTION

24 -33 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Establish a Lithgow Jobs and Investment Committee (the **Committee**) pursuant to s355(b) of the *Local Government Act*, 1993 (the **Act**) with the functions set out in <u>Attachment A</u>, to operate until such time that the NSW Government implements its proposed Central West Jobs and Investment Authorities.
- 2. In establishing the Committee, that the Committee be constituted by the General Manager and seven other persons appointed from each of the Federal and State governments, the knowledge sector, the Mining and Energy Union, the mining sector, the energy sector and an independent chairperson.
- 3. Permit the Committee to recommend to Council the appointment of an independent chairperson and that the General Manager be appointed interim chairperson until Council makes a substantive appointment to this role.
- 4. Endorse the following governance actions to establish the Committee -
 - a. a nominee of each of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Interim Net Zero Authority Team) and the Department of Regional NSW be invited to help constitute the Committee.
 - b. the persons listed in the confidential <u>Attachment B</u> of this report be invited to help constitute the Committee.

MOVED: Councillor S McGhie SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Statham

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor C Coleman, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S McGhie, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor C O'Connor

AGAINST: Councillor S Lesslie and Councillor S Ring

10.4. Enhancing Our Natural Environment

There were no reports on Enhancing Our Natural Environment.

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10.5. Responsible Governance & Civic Leadership

10.5.1. F&G - 26/02/2024 - 2023/24 Quarter Two Budget Review

Councillor D Goodwin left the meeting at 9:58 pm.

Councillor D Goodwin returned to the meeting at 10:01 pm.

24 -34 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the contents of the report and the projected consolidated operating result (before capital) of \$7.2M surplus for the 2023/24 Operational Plan as detailed in the Quarterly Budget Review Report for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023.
- 2. Note the commentary on the capital expenditure budget, cashflow and reserve balances.
- 3. Adopt the income, expenditure and capital budget variations to the 2023/24 Council budget as outlined in the attached Quarterly Budget Review Report.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce SECONDED: Councillor S McGhie

CARRIED

10.5.2. I&E - 26/02/2024 - Exeloo - Supply and Install at Portland

24 -35 RESOLVED

THAT Council proceed with the purchase of an Exeloo for Saville Park, Portland, at a value of \$252,876 excluding GST, utilising the provisions of Section (3) (i) of the Local Government Act (1993) as a sole provider of Exeloo systems.

MOVED: Councillor S McGhie SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

10.5.3. F&G - 26/02/2024 - Review of Policy 8.7 Investment Policy

24 -36 RESOLVED

THAT Council adopt revised Policy 8.7 Investment Policy for immediate implementation.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

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10.5.4. F&G - 26/02/2023 - Review of Policy 9.14 Risk Management

24 -37 RESOLVED

THAT Council adopt Policy 9.14 Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) for immediate implementation.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

11. Council Committee Reports

11.1. P&P - 26/02/2024 - Seven Valleys Tourism Minutes - 27 November 2023

Councillor S Ring left the meeting at 10:14 pm.

Councillor S Ring returned to the meeting at 10:15 pm.

24 -38 RESOLVED

THAT Council notes the minutes of the Seven Valley Tourism Committee meeting held on 27 November 2023.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

11.2. I&E - 26/02/2024 - Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - 5th December 2023

24 -39 RESOLVED

THAT

- 1. Council notes the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 5th December 2023; and
- 2. Council note the progress report on the causeway crossing over Farmers Creek near Burton Street.
 - a. The Administration provide a timeline from the beginning up until this point that also includes the details from Thursdays meeting and update from the contractors engaged for this project including sizing of the culvert; and
 - b. A risk assessment of the previous works and of the new design be provided, and
 - c. A survey to include up to the boundaries of neighbouring properties and identify if restriction point any acquisition is to occur; and

d. Confirm if there is any risk to Council in terms of professional indemnity and who is indemnifying that plan

MOVED: Councillor S McGhie SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

Councillor S McGhie called a Point of Order on Councillor S Lesslie stating that Councillor M Statham was not at the Operations Meeting of 5 December 2023.

Councillor S McGhie withdrew his Point of Order.

Councillor S McGhie called a Point of Order as the discussion was not in relation to the adoption of the minutes, which was the subject being debated.

The Mayor upheld the Point of Order.

Councillor Lesslie went on, stating that this matter was in the relation to the minutes as the matter was discussed at the meeting.

Councillor S Lesslie called for an apology from Councillor S Statham and Councillor S McGhie and for the resignation of the General Manager.

The Mayor refused Councillor S Lesslie's request.

The Motion was PUT.

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Statham

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor C Coleman, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S McGhie, Councillor E Mahony, Councillor C O'Connor and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor S Lesslie

11.3. I&E - 26/02/2024 - Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 13th December 2024

24 -40 RESOLVED

THAT Council notes the minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2023.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

11.4. P&P - 26/02/2024 - Seven Valleys Tourism Minutes - 23 January 2024

24 -41 RESOLVED

THAT Council notes the minutes of the Seven Valley Tourism Committee meeting held on 23 January 2024.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman **SECONDED:** Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

11.5. I&E - 26/02/2024 - TALC Committee Meeting Minutes - 1st February 2024

24 -42 RESOLVED

THAT

- Council notes the minutes of the TALC Committee Meeting held on 1st February 2024.
- 2. All property owners in Second Street, Third Street and East Street, Lithgow be issued with a request to be considerate of their neighbours, and refrain from parking opposite driveway entrances to allow safe entry and exit; and
- 3. Council provide a follow up report to Traffic Authority Local Committee in six (6) months' time, for consideration of a No Parking zone on both sides of Second Street to prevent any future parking and access issues (if required).
- Council note the proposed installation of a Variable Message Sign by Transport for NSW on the Great Western Highway, Lithgow (near the Lockyer Street Intersection) for use during the 2024 Winter Weather Ice and Snow multi-tiered campaign between June and August 2024.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie **SECONDED:** Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

11.6. P&P - 26/02/2024 - Crime Prevention Committee Minutes - 5 February 2024

24 -43 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the minutes of the 5 February 2024 Crime Prevention Committee meeting

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman **MOVED:** Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

11.7. I&E - 26/02/2024 - Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - 6 February 2024

24 -44 RESOLVED

THAT the Council notes the Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2024.

MOVED: Councillor S McGhie SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

11.8. FIN - 26/02/2024 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 13 February 2024

24 -45 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

11.9. ADMIN - 26/02/2024 - Committee Meetings that did not Proceed

24 -46 RESOLVED

THAT the information contained in the report be noted.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

Councillor S McGhie left the meeting at 10:36 pm. Councillor S McGhie returned to the meeting at 10:36 pm.

12. Business of Great Urgency

The Mayor asked if there were any matters to be considered as matters of great urgency.

Councillor Ring raised issue with the Council having this section in the business for meetings.

The Administration gave advice on the Code of Meeting Practice and the Order of Business.

The Mayor ruled that the matter is not a matter of great urgency.

Councillor O'Connor raised the matter of the Lithgow Tip not being able to sell the mulch that is disposed of as it is not EPA licensed.

The Administration gave advice and undertook to provide a memo to Councillors in relation to the outcome.

Councillor E Mahony requested that this Lithgow Tip item be brought to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

The Mayor raised the matter of the Council meetings commencing at 6pm during winter months and asked that the Council consider a change.

It was ruled that the matter is not a matter of great urgency

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10:45 pm.

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